

Newsletter for the Catholic Communities of:
Our Lady of Walsingham, Occupation Road, Corby
St John Ogilvie, Copenhagen Road, Danesholme, Corby
Most Holy Name of Jesus, Stoke Hill, Oundle
St Paul the Apostle, Sackville Street, Thrapston
St Thomas More, Marshalls Road, Raunds

Clergy: Canon Michael Harrison, Fr David Donaghue

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Sunday 7th June 2020. Trinity Sunday.

The Feast Day of God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit! White Vestments Today.

Welcome to this Newsletter, the best way to keep in touch with your parish during this time of shutdown and lockdown. We hope that all our parishioners and their families are keeping well. Those we bump into in the street are all missing us, and we are missing everyone too. Please God, we will be able to gather again sometime soon. Until then, keep praying at home and tune in to some religious Mass or service on Sunday, thus keeping the Sabbath Day holy.

Bishop David has now visited all the active clergy in our Pastoral Area. He made his first visit to Corby on Wednesday, meeting Fr David and Fr Michael for afternoon tea in the garden under the shade of the old oak tree. He visited Fr Gerard in the garden at St Brendan's on Friday (also making friends with Fitz the German Shepherd) and then met Fr Gregory and Seminarian Jithu on Wednesday in Kettering. All in accordance with the social distancing recommendations. Bishop David is now going out and meeting his clergy, having been confined to home like the rest of us. We assure him of our support and prayers as he takes on the task as our shepherd, with the most unusual of starts in the midst of lockdown.

Confession. We have a lovely big garden. Plenty of space to keep our social distance. Please contact us if you are in need of, or would like Confession or a chat. All in accordance with the guidelines. 01536 203121.

You might even see our newest parishioners who have taken up residence in the back garden in the last fortnight - a baby rabbit, two squirrels and a hedgehog. Mother Nature is reclaiming her territory.

PDF by Request. By popular demand, we are now saving this newsletter in PDF File format.

Live-Streaming From Our Lady's Church. Watch this space. We are almost there! Fr David is on the case, negotiating the best deal, seeing which package best suits our needs. It is quite pricey to install (£4,500) and to maintain (£150 per month), but would be an investment, enabling everyone to log on to watch Masses and services held in Our Lady's church, live (just like what currently happens at our Cathedral, but without the recording facility). So many people are missing their local church and clergy. Online Mass from the Cathedral, Walsingham or EWTN is great but not the same.

Our ongoing thanks to all the volunteers in our five churches who are keeping things up and running – running the taps, mowing the lawns etc. Our buildings may be closed but the Church is open.

Mass Cards during Lockdown: we are here in the presbytery and you are welcome to come for a Mass card as long as we keep our antisocial distance. You may wish to ring us on 203121 to ensure we are in, before setting out. You can book an Anniversary Mass over the telephone or by email. There is now no waiting list for Mass intentions, although some weekends have been booked for some time.

Learning New Skills. This time of lockdown is enabling us all to think and behave differently. Our Lady's Catholic Club Board held their latest meeting via "Teams" which is similar to "Zoom". Is the new normal?

Our Lady's Catholic Club aka "The K.K.". The club is, like all others closed for business and all staff are furloughed. We await government instructions as to when churches and clubs may reopen. In the meantime, the Club has had installed a fantastic new music and lighting system in the Hall along with a massive screen on the stage. The toilets are being completely renovated and improved. Once suppliers resume work, the new furniture in the Hall will arrive. All in all, the Club is looking better than ever and we can't wait to reopen. Why not book the Hall for your function?

Fr Michael's 2020 Celebrations have been postponed. He will still be 30 years ordained on 7th July and he will still be 60 years of age on 17th August, but the combined celebrations planned for 10th July in church and club have been postponed. Something to do with a virus. We hope to have a new date soon. Also, Fr Michael was to mark these milestones in his life with a visit to the famous 10-yearly Passion Play at Oberammergau, the small village in Bavaria, Germany. The Oberammergau Passion Play has been performed every ten years (years ending with a 0) since 1634 by the inhabitants in thanksgiving for deliverance from the bubonic plague. Sadly, and somewhat ironically, the Passion Play has also sadly been postponed to 2022, due to the Pandemic.

Reopening of our Churches. The latest communication from our Diocese made for disappointing reading. It looks like 5th July at the earliest will be the day we can reopen our church doors, and that is for private prayer, not for Mass. Damian has already organised Our Lady's Church in accordance with the guidelines. Would you believe it, our massive church can only accommodate twenty individuals at a time (plus immediate family groups) mainly due to the two-metre rule. There are so many restrictions and conditions.

We are currently looking at St John Ogilvie's; St Paul's Thrapston will be next.

Thank You to those who have agreed to be Stewards. We still need more names. Regrettably, offers to steward cannot be accepted from those who have reached 70 years of age or have health issues. We will call a stewards' meeting (a Stewards' Enquiry?) at each church before we open anywhere. Nothing can happen anyway until we receive explicit permission from the government, and for each individual church from the Bishop. We have to hold our proverbial horses until then.

We envisage opening up for an hour or two on a Saturday or Sunday morning, not for any public ceremony, but for people to pop in and pray before the Blessed Sacrament for a few minutes. If you can help as a Steward, please let us know by email: ourlady.corby@yahoo.co.uk .

Keep In Touch. As you know, we celebrate Mass in Our Lady's church every day usually at 8.30am, and 9.30am on Sundays but behind locked doors for the intentions booked by parishioners (see below). Fr Gerard Byrne's Masses are available from St Brendan's and St Patrick's to view via Facebook (see their parish website: stbrendanscorby.org). Also, you can see our own Fr David gives us his daily reflections on YouTube.

Also, many of us enjoy Mass live-streamed from our Cathedral (nothamptondiocese.org) uniting ourselves with our new Bishop David at 11am each Sunday (or 8.30am with Canon Mark Floody). Above all: pray at home.

See below for the words to your Act of Spiritual Communion.

***Our Lady's School** reopened on Monday for limited year groups. We wish them well. They will be making use of the entrance behind our church car park. Our church gates will be open for pedestrians only, not for cars. This is to prevent accidents in the queue, as everyone keeps their two metre distance. Quite how they expect children to keep two metres apart during the school day is another story.*

***Is Your Relationship Under Stress** During the Lock-down? Smartloving Breakthrough is there to help. A three-hour session to take simple steps to heal wounds and restore hope. Cost: £24 (financial help is available via mfinrcd@gmail.com). See <https://smartloving.org/bto-uk> Private, confidential and effective.*

Visits. Remember that your priests are able to make house visits only in cases of emergency.

Hospital: Thankfully Kettering General is allowing priests to visit, many hospitals are not. Our rota to provide call-out care from priests 24/7 is still operational, and I thank the local clergy for their support: Fr Gerard in Corby, Fr Paul in Wellingborough, Frs Michael and David here and Fr Gregory in Kettering - who takes the lion's share of calls. For Hospital cases, please ask the ward staff to contact switchboard who know which priest is on call (it differs each day).

Do you want a Chat with Canon Michael or Fr David? Would you like us to pray with you? Please feel free to phone 203121, even just to say "hello" and let us know how you are.

May They Rest In Peace.

This week we have funerals for

Judith Moody, aged 71, late of Kettering

Kevin Brennan, aged 57, late of Warminster Close, Corby

All are private funerals with limited numbers, with the option of a Memorial Mass in church at a later date.

New Date for Confirmation. Bishop David Oakley will come to Confirm our young people on Thursday 15th October at 7pm.

No New Date Yet for First Holy Communion. We will wait until we are open for Masses again before we settle on a date for First Holy Communion; we don't want to give a date and then have to postpone, just in case families book flights etc in vain.

Fr David on YouTube! Fr David posts daily videos with a thought for the day, currently going through the titles of Our Lady. To find the channel simply search for "Fr David Donaghue" in YouTube. Fr David comes across extremely well and gives us plenty of food for thought.

Fr David is leading a Connect Group for Young Adults: Sunday nights at 7pm for 18-30's. Spend time and make friends online via Zoom with other young Catholic adults like yourself, connecting and growing in faith with music, guest speakers and testimony and good company. Rick is there too, so you are amongst friends. You need to enrol first with Fr Brendan Seery: brendan@mk-cluster.co.uk then you can join in the fun.

Weddings and Baptisms. In 2020 we were due to celebrate no fewer than ten weddings. Last Wednesday we took a call from the final bride who is now postponing her big day until July 2021. We feel for the couples in this predicament. Two couples will marry as soon as the lock-down is lifted, with just themselves, two witnesses and the minister, leaving the party for a later date. Others have all postponed everything until later in the year or 2021. Our prayers are with couples and families whose plans have been disrupted in a huge way. Don't worry, we will celebrate all the more when we are permitted. We will wait until we are reopen before we begin to take bookings for baptisms, except in danger of death. We expect many Memorial Masses to be booked, for those whose funerals were not able to be held in church. Without doubt, we are going to be extremely busy when the lock-down is lifted!

No Public Masses at Present. Priest's Private Mass will be for the following Intentions

Saturday	Our Lady's	Bridget Sweeney RIP / Philomena Colman A
Trinity Sunday	Our Lady's	Private Intention / Agnes Gallagher Int
Monday	Our Lady's	David Gollogly RIP
Tuesday	Our Lady's	Mae Fullerton RIP / Michael Gallagher Int
Wednesday	Our Lady's	SVP Members / Housebound Parishioners
Thursday	Our Lady's	Teresa Hopkins RIP / Pat and Tom Kennedy RIP
Friday:	Our Lady's	Bernadette Ellis RIP / Borthwick Family Int
Saturday	Our Lady's	William Currie A / Dan Kelly A
Corpus Christi Sunday	Our Lady's	Private Intention / Henry and Margaret Irwin A

*May God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit Bless us all and keep us.
Wishing you a Happy, Joyful Trinity Sunday, Canon Michael & Fr David*

Act of Spiritual Communion please recite these words:

"My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things, and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit myself to be parted from you. Amen."

Or, why not try this beautiful prayer: **Prayer to Our Guardian Angel When We Cannot Attend Mass.**

***O HOLY ANGEL at my side,
Go to Church for me.
Kneel in my place, at Holy Mass.
Where I desire to be.***

***At Offertory, in my stead,
Take all I am and own.
And place it as a sacrifice
Upon the altar throne.***

***At Holy Consecration's bell,
Adore with Seraph's love.***

*My Jesus present in the host,
Come down from heaven above.*

*Then pray for those I dearly love,
And those who cause me grief.
That Jesus' blood may cleanse all hearts
And suffering souls relieve.*

*And when the priest Communion takes
O bring my Lord to me.
That his sweet heart may rest on mine,
And I his temple be.*

*Pray that this Sacrifice Divine
May mankind's sins efface.
Then bring me Jesus' blessing home
The pledge of every grace. Amen*

SVP News. Yearly totals.

The SVP for the parishes of Oundle, Raunds and Thrapston have made the following number of visits:

82 to families

627 to elderly at home

233 to elderly in residential care

74 to people who may have mental health issues

895 is the total number of hours spent visiting

In addition, our SVP conference offered practical/material help on 160 occasions and spent 127 hours so doing.

And Finally,

Supporting Your Parish Financially. Thank you to those who have been concerned about how your parish can keep going financially without the regular income from the collection. There is a variety of ways to help.

1/ Firstly, just save up all your envelopes until such time we can gather again at Mass.

2/ You may wish to donate/set up a standing order to your chosen parish via the Diocesan Website northamptondiocese.org, the same website you use to follow Mass with Bishop David (just click on "Donate").

3/ More immediately and conveniently, you can do a bank transfer to your parish account:

Account Name: Our Lady of Walsingham; Account No: 91052165; NatWest Corby Branch; Sort Code: 60-06-11

St John Ogilvie; Account No: 82644993; NatWest Corby Branch; Sort Code: 60-06-11

St Paul the Apostle; A/c No: 65068874; NatWest Corby Branch; Sort Code: 60-06-11

Most Holy Name of Jesus: A/c Number: 46714626; NatWest Corby Branch: 60-06-11

4/ If you would like to speak to a human being, use the new initiative by our Diocese called "**Giving Tuesday**".

Each Tuesday, between 10am and 4pm, you can ring 01604 712065 to donate to your specified parish. Have your debit or credit card handy. If engaged, just ring back as there is only one person "manning" the line.

These are difficult times for everyone, so thank you for thinking of your parish.